

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 111208Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9637

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN 105

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0291/1 SECTION 1 OF 2

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, XG, FI

SUBJECT: "MINI-CSCE" OF EUROPEAN CENTER/AGRARIAN PARTIES

REF: (A) HELSINKI 57 (NOTAL), (B) HELSINKI 221 (NOTAL),
(C) STATE 27108 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. SUMMARY: FINNISH CENTER PARTY SPONSORED A "MINI-CSCE" OF EUROPEAN CENTER AND AGRARIAN PARTIES AND GROUPS FEBRUARY 6-8. 34 DELEGATIONS FROM 23 COUNTRIES ATTENDED. CONFERENCE UNREMARKABLE EXCEPT FOR FACT NO PARTICIPANTS INVITED FROM A NUMBER OF CSCE COUNTRIES INCLUDING US AND CANADA, FOR LARGE ROLE OF BULGARIAN NATIONAL AGRARIAN UNION (BNAU) IN ORGANIZATION OF MEETING, AND FOR ATTEMPT OF WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES RIG FINALD COMMUNIQUE. EMBASSY BELIEVES FINNISH CENTER PARTY HAS TRANISHED ITS IMAGE THROUGH GENERAL PRO-EAST TILT IN CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

END SUMMARY.

2. A "CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CENTER, AGRARIAN, LIBERAL AND RADICAL PARTIES AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS" OPENED IN HELSINKI'S FINLANDIA HALL FEBRUARY 6 WITH FINNISH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN ATTENDING. ALTHOUGH KEKKONEN DID NOT SPEAK HE STATED IN WRITTEN GREETING THAT: "THIS EVENT MAY BE AN IMPORTANT LINK IN THE CHAIN OF DEVELOPMENT WHICH THE CSCE INITIATED, AND WHICH I EXPECT WILL BECOME AN IRREVERSIBLE PROCESS OF DETENTE AND CO-OPERATION. A MEETING OF THIS KIND ON THE PARTY LEVEL IS SIGNIFICANT IN MAKING THE CONCEPTS OF THE CSCE BETTER KNOWN AMONGH MEMBERS OF PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, AND ALSO MORE GENERALLY AMONG THE CITIZENS OF YOUR COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, YOUR WORK GIVES VALUABLE SUPPORT "IN THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI" TO THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE COUNTIRES WHICH SIGNED THE FINAL ACT OF CSCE". KEKKONEN WISHED CONFEREENCE SUCCESS IN " MAPPING OUT BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL FORMS OF CO-OPERATION AMONG PARTIES IN THE POLITICAL CENTER AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEMS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE RURAL POPULATION." HE CALLED SPECIAL ATTENTION TO FACT THAT "NOT ALL PARTICIPATING PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS HAVE A UNIFORM IDEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND OR TRADITIONAL ORGANIZAED CO-OPERATION," AND CONCLUDED BY COMMENDING FINNISH CENTER PARTY "OFR ITS INITITATIVE, WHICH I HOPE WILL OPEN UP NEW PERSPECTIVES IS THE POST-CSCE CLIMATE".

3. KEKKONEN'S STATEMENT SET TONE FOR REST OF MEETING

WHICH WAS LARGELY SPENT IN SELF-CONGRATULATION ON FACT CONFERENCE WAS BEING HELD AND IN RINGING ENDORSEMENTS OF CSCE PRINCIPLES. THERE WERE FEW PRACTICAL SUGGESTION AS TO HOW PRINCIPLES COULD BE CARRIED OUT.

4. CEREMONIAL OPENING SESSION OBSERVED BY US AND CANADIAN AMBASSADORS AS WELL AS DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF MOST OTHER CSCE COUNTRIES RESIDENT IN HELSINKI INCLUDING AMBASSADOR OF USSR. SESSION INCLUDED ADDRESSES BY JOHANNES VIROLAINEN, CHAIRMAN OF FINNISH CENTER PARTY, AND FINNISH PRIME MINISTER MARTTI MIETTUNEN.

5. LITTLE ATTENTION WAS PAID TO MOST SPEECHES MADE DURING CONFERENCE WORKING SESSIONS ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AND ON SUNDAY MORNING. ONE NATO COLLEAGUE OBERVED ATHT CONFERENCE HAD TAUGHT HIM NEW DEFINITION OF "FRUITFUL CONVERSATION", I.E. "EVERYONE SIMPLY GETS UP AND SAYS WHAT HE WANTS TO SAY WITH NO REFERENCE TO ANYONE ELSE." TOPICS HAD A FAMILIAR CSCE RING. CYPRUS WAS RAISED BY GREEKS AND CYPRIOTS ALTHOUGH NO TURK WAS PRESENT TO PRESENT OPPOSING VIEW. DISARMA-
MENT AND ARMS LIMITATION WERE FREQUENTLY REFERRED TO AS WERE DETENTE, ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION, AND FREER AND BROADER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.

6. SOVIET DELEGAT, P.E. ALEKSEYEV, DEVOTED MUCH OF HIS FORMAL SPEECH TO SOVIET COMPLIEANCE WITH CSCE DOCU-
MENT, PARTICULARLY ON DISSEMINATION OF BOOKS AND LITERA-
TURE FROM ABROAD. MANY OF HIS EXAMPLES PREDATED CSCE
SIGNING, HOWEVER. HE SAID THAT CSCE FINAL ACT "IS A
DOCUMENT WHICH THE SOVIET UNION TREATS WITH RESPECT AND
FULL RESPONSIBILITY. WE ACCEPT IT AS A GUIDE TO ACTION."
ALEKSEYEV WAS ALMOST BELLIGERANT IN REJECTING CRITICISM
OF SOVIET UNION : "THERE ARE STILL FORCES WHICH ARE
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TRYING IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE TO DRAG THE EUROPEANS
BACK INTO THE TRANCHES OF THE COLD WAR. IN THE PAST
THESE FORCES DID THEIR WORST TO DISRUPT THE EUROPEAN
CONFERENCE. NOW THEY ARE GETTING MOBILIZED TO HAMPER
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS RESOLUTIONS. THEY ARE
POISONING THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE CONTINENT WITH VICIOUS
INSINUATIONS AND ARE BENDING OVER BACKWARDS TO
BESMIRCH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.
THEY ARE ALLEGING THAT THE SOVIET UNION HINDERS
COOPERATION AND CONTACTS." (ALEKSEYEV WAS LISTED AS
REPRESENTING THE KOLKHOZ COUNCIL OF USSR BUT ATTRACTED
MORE ATTENTION FROM PRESS AS RECENTLY-APPOINTED EDITOR
OF IZVESTIJA. HE WAS CLEARLY ONE OF CONFENCE HEAVY-
WEIGHTS.)

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